

## IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the following claims as indicated.

1. (Currently amended) A ferrule for removably connecting first and second sections of a fishing rod, comprising,

a tubular body having openings at tubular first and second ends adapted to receive joining ends of said first and second fishing rod sections, respectively, the tubular body first end affixed to the joining end of said first-fishing rod first section joining end,

a pliant, mildly adhesive liner secured inside the tubular body second end, adapted to releasably engage the joining end of said fishing rod second section end-received therein, resiliently conforming to the second section joining end in releasably grasping it within, such that the fishing rod second section is removably retained in the tubular body second end by the pliant, mildly adhesive liner until removed under pulling force of a user.

2. (Currently amended) The ferrule of claim 1 wherein the body is resiliently flexible with a stiffness approximately equal to that of the fishing rod sections.
3. (Currently amended) The ferrule of claim 1 wherein the ferrule tubular body second end with liner secured therein is adapted to receive and removably engage said joining end of said second section of said fishing rod configured with a nonsmooth outer surface, the liner resiliently conforming to ~~the said~~ nonsmooth

- ~~joining end of said~~ outer surface in grasping said joining end of said ~~the second~~  
section ~~end in~~ releasably joining the section ends and yielding under force of  
removing the second section end in separating the sections.
4. (Currently amended) A fishing rod including at least ~~two~~ first and second sections  
connecting at first and second section joining ends, the improvement comprising,  
a ferrule affixed to ~~a~~ the first section joining end received in a ferrule first end  
and having a tubular opening in the ferrule at a ferrule second end  
opposite ~~the said ferrule first end and said~~ first section joining end therein,  
a pliant, mildly adhesive liner secured within the ~~first section end within its~~  
tubular opening adapted to releasably engage the second section joining  
end upon receiving it therein, resiliently conforming to the second section  
joining end in releasably grasping it within.
5. (Currently amended) The fishing rod of claim 4 wherein the second section  
joining end further comprises a nonsmooth outer surface, the liner resiliently  
conforming around the nonsmooth outer surface ~~of the second section end in~~  
releasably clasping it upon insertion of the nonsmooth outer surface into the  
tubular opening therein impeding unintentional separation of the sections ~~while~~  
and yielding and releasing it under pulling of force of removal as it is removed  
from the ferrule.

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6. (Currently amended) The fishing rod of claim 5 wherein the nonsmooth outer surface comprises a line wrapped in a plurality of ~~wounds~~ turns around the second section end.
7. (Currently amended) The fishing rod of claim 5 wherein the nonsmooth outer surface comprises at least one annular ~~ridges~~ ridge circumferential around the second section end.
8. (Currently amended) The fishing rod of claim 6 further comprising a coating over the ~~wounds~~ turns.
9. (Cancel) The fishing rod of claim 4 wherein the ferrule includes an attachment end with a bore receiving the first section end in axial alignment with the second section received into the ferrule tubular opening.
10. (Cancel) The fishing rod of claim 8 further comprising a nonsmooth surface with adhesive permanently adhering the nonsmooth surface to the ferrule within the ferrule bore.
11. (Currently amended) The fishing rod of claim 4 wherein the ferrule adapts a first section to connection to a second section of different cross section wherein the cross section of the tubular opening comprises a plurality of equal-length lines forming the circumference of the tubular opening.
12. (Currently amended) The fishing rod of claim ~~11~~ 10 wherein the tubular opening is pentagonal.

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13. (Currently amended) The fishing rod of claim 11 ~~10~~ wherein the tubular opening  
is octagonal..

14. (Currently amended) The fishing rod of claim 11 ~~10~~ wherein the cross section of  
the first section is circular.